

REMARKS

Claims 2-9 are pending in the current application. Claim 1 has been canceled. Claims 2, 5, and 6 are independent.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 6-9 are allowed. Applicant further appreciate that claims 2-5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has accepted the Examiner's determination of allowability by rewriting allowable dependent claims 2 and 5 into independent form by incorporating all of the features of claim 1. Therefore, this case is now clearly in condition for allowance.

Prior Art Rejection

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hashimoto (U.S. Patent No. 4,823,398). This rejection, and so far as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been canceled above, thereby clearly rendering this rejection moot. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments, it is believed that claims are allowable.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned, at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Application No. 10/750,825
Amendment dated November 13, 2007
Reply to Office Action of August 13, 2007

Docket No.: 2936-0208P

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: November 13, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Michael R. Cammarata

Registration No.: 39,491

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant